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Latest News on the Minimum Wage Showdown

The battle over the minimum wage continues on Capitol Hill. Under intense pressure from Democrats, House Majority Leader John Boehner said recently he might allow the House to vote on whether to increase the minimum wage. "It is shameful that the Republicans have to be dragged, kicking and screaming, to do the right thing on such a basic issue of fairness and human dignity," Rep. George Miller said. ([more](#)) A vote has still not been scheduled, but Democrats will continue their fight to increase the minimum wage.

Rep. Miller Calls for New Mine Safety Nominee

After Senate leaders cancelled a vote on President Bush's nominee to head the Mine Safety and Health Administration on June 13, Rep. George Miller urged the administration to withdraw the nomination of Richard Stickler. Stickler said during his confirmation hearing that he believes the status quo on mine safety is acceptable; meanwhile, 33 coal miners and 15 metal and nonmetal miners have been killed on the job so far this year. Even President Bush was forced to acknowledge the lack of effective mine safety regulation and enforcement over the past five years when he signed a new mine safety bill into law earlier this month. ([more](#))

With DeLay and Abramoff Out of the Picture, Abused Marianas Workers Have a Chance at Relief

House Democrats have re-introduced legislation to protect exploited workers in the U.S. Commonwealth of the

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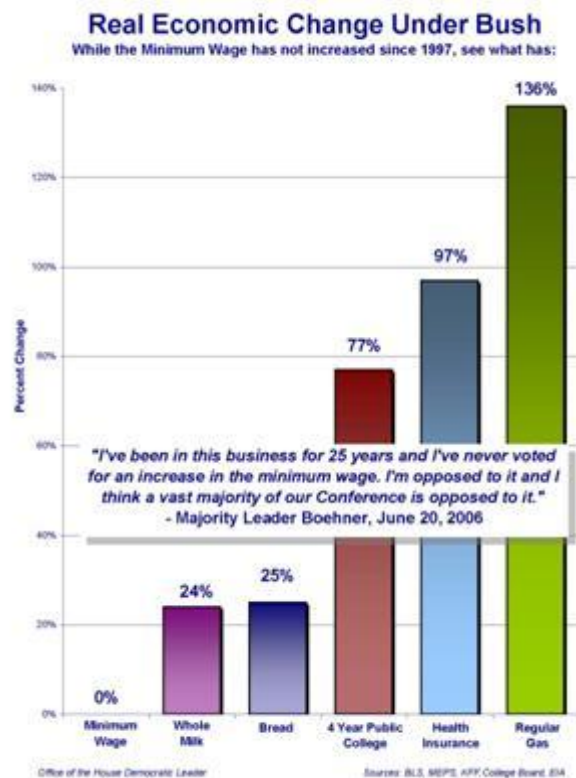
Northern Marianas Islands and to close immigration loopholes that endanger U.S. security. Despite strong evidence of dramatic abuses of women there, including forced abortions and human trafficking, former Rep. Tom DeLay and Republican lobbyist Jack Abramoff blocked action for more than a decade. "The House of Representatives failed to stop extraordinary abuses of poor women guest workers in the textile and tourism industries in the Marianas despite overwhelming evidence documented by the federal government, Congress, the news media and other sources," Miller said. ([more](#))

Delta Pilot Pension Termination Underscores the Need for Pension Reform

Delta Airlines' recent announcement that pilot pensions will be terminated as of September 2, 2006 underscores the urgent need for airline relief in the pension reform legislation currently being negotiated in conference. " When US Airways terminated its pension plan, this Congress failed to act. When United Airlines terminated its pension plans, the largest dump of workers' pensions in history, this Congress failed to act. The Republicans have fiddled while Rome burns. Now, even more American workers are paying the price," said a joint statement from Reps. George Miller and Rob Andrews. ([more](#))

Outrage of the Week: Republicans Give Millionaires a Tax Cut, But Won't Give Minimum Wage Workers a Raise

In their latest blow to America's working families, on June 22 Republicans pushed to give as much as one trillion dollars to less than one percent of the wealthiest Americans by rolling back the federal estate tax, while still refusing even to allow a vote to increase the minimum wage. ([more](#)) America's minimum wage earners cannot afford this kind of leadership. See the chart below for details on how the cost of living has skyrocketed since the last minimum wage increase in 1997. (Click on the chart to see a larger version.)



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